

CCMFCA

Retro-Edition

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Tourists drive their car on a dirt road along Yellowstone River 1899. (Library of Congress/Corbis/VCG via Getty Images)



Volume 14 Issue 4, November 1978

"COME TO THE FAIR" RALLY NOVEMBER 23, 24, 25, 26 1979 DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS DEL MAR, CA

We have Over 1000+ Coaches attending. This year our annual Thanksgiving Rally will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar, California. This location will be the site of the FMCA midwinter rally in March 1979.

There will be plenty to do and see, and we look forward to having you join us. We'll be parked inside the fairgrounds and be within walking distance of the ocean. There's surf fishing and swimming for the hearty ones, and acres of room for hiking and jogging.

There's a miniature golf course nearby and a driving range for our "Arnold Palmers." You can even take backgammon lessons at the miniature golf course.

Flower Hill Shopping Center is a healthy hike from where we'll be. They have lots of interesting shops and restaurants for those who are in the mood.

We plan on activities for the kids, so bring them along. There are no hookups, but water and dump stations will be available.

How about bringing some of your arts and crafts to sell for Christmas presents? We'll have a special time to share them.

Friday night we're going to have a pot luck dinner.

This won't be one of our usual sumptuous feasts, however. This one will be different, to say the least!

It will be prepared by **men only!** We don't want you to prepare your "fantastic food" by alphabetical sequence as we usually do. We are going to let you "closet gourmets" run amok. We're sure we'll have plenty of sumptuous salads, elegant entrees and delectable desserts. Don't forget fellows - enough for 6-8 people!

Saturday night we'll be having our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This year it will be Prime Rib - and its

all the Prime Rib you can eat!!

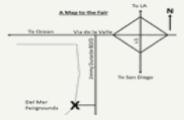
We'll also have bands for dancing on Friday and Saturday nights.

It would be great to see some of you who've been unable to join for awhile. Register early and you'll save some money.

We've ordered perfect weather for the rally. All we need to make it fantastic is for you to join us!

Directions: Turn off Interstate 5 at the Valle de la

Valle exit. Follow the Del Mar Fairgrounds signs. Head west to the first intersection. Turn south on Jimmy Durante Blvd. to the main entrance of the Fairgrounds. Turn into the Fairgrounds and drive



to the Don Diego Clock Tower for registration.

See you at the Fair!

Sheila Donigan, CCFMCA President & Trailboss.



1979 Rally Schedule

- Feb 3-5 Gem Show, Quartzite, AZ.
- March 6-8 Winter National, Del Mar Fairgrounds, San Diego, CA.
- April 27-29 Mardi Gras, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA
- May 25-27 Quarter Moon Ranch, Chihuahua Valley, CA.
- July TBA
- Sept 1-3 Ventura County Fairgrounds, Annual Meeting
- Oct. 26-28 Oktoberfest, Havasu Landing CA

President's Roadway Journal



Leonard Wahlquist, F503960, President

Hello everyone.

Boy, the Ground Hog wasn't kidding about 6 weeks of winter; it lasted much

longer this year. The rally at Pechanga RV Resort, although small, we were glad to have the banquet room for games. Thanks to Dede and Beth, we had a wonderful Thai food dinner that everyone liked.

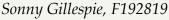
Beth and I left home on April 5th to go to the Colorado River for two weeks of warm weather. It was 28 degrees when we left our house. From there, we went to the rally at Golden Village Palms in Hemet. They had a vintage trailer and car show. The entertainment was a magician (ask Tracy about it) and a Blues Band. We were joined by the Safari Chapter and 4 other guests totaling 27 coaches. We had a general meeting and voted on Pay Pal as another option for members to pay for dues and rallies online. You can still send the forms and checks by mail.

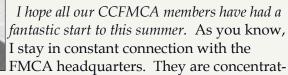
The yearly audit is underway; thank you - Carol Jones and Vicki Thomas. The dinner was a great success; we had 52 people at dinner; thank you again, Dede and Beth. Beth had vintage aprons for some of the women to wear. It was Barbara Marcosa, Mel Roberts, and Kriss Lewis's birthday.

"Our next rally is at Bonelli Bluffs in San Dimas for a BBQ and all the fixings. Hope to see you there.

Traveling thru life with curiosity rather than judgment is how one finds the magic in each moment." *Erin Chatters - Facebook*

CCFMCA National Director





ing on rally preps for Gillette, WY, and expect a large attendance.

Rallies:

- FMCA's 107th International Convention & RV Expo CAM-PLEX Multi vent Facilities, Gillette WY, August 23-26 2023. Check back for registration.
- Fantasy RV Tours: Greatest Outdoor Show promises rodeo excitement for your inner cowboy! Join us at the Calgary Stampede RV Rally. "Yahoo!"

July 5-11, 2023.

Treasurer, Web & Database Coordinator



Tracy Lenocker, F459737

At the general membership meeting during the rally at Golden Village Palms on Friday, April 21st at 9:30 am we will be having an open discussion about institut-

ing electronic payments for rallies and annual memberships.

As of 4/16/2023 the general account has \$18,217.81 and the Rally account has \$23,308.49.

The annual audit will be conducted during the rally by the current audit committee members.

Our chapter Bylaws with amended Standing Rules are located on the chapters website for your reference. The website has some updates, and there will be a few more based upon rally attendance and acquired photos and other activities to share.

The database is updated and current. A few former members no longer have a motorhome and therefore cannot be regular members of our chapter. Their membership will continue until the end of the current year. A few former members wish to be on the email list for the newsletter, so a separate list is maintained for those few. There is also a classification called Family Associate member for a person who does not own RVs.

Send all changes to the Webmaster and Database Coordinator at the address below:

California Chapter of FMCA

Tracy Lenocker

PO Box 2672

Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

tracy@lenocker.com; 909-337-0315

Membership & Hospitality News



Carol Jones, F440337

I hope all of you have been a

I hope all of you have been able to stay safe.

David Franke and David Glenn are undergoing medical treatment for prior medical

conditions. We hope to see them back to their old selves again soon. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers

Membership & Hospitality News (cont'd)

NEW MEMBERS

We have a few new members:

- Alan and Jody Kinard Loma Linda, CA
- Howard and Patricia Berry Ranch Santa Margarita, CA

We look forward to meeting and seeing everyone at the upcoming rallies.

BEST WISHES TO ALL OF OUR CCFMCA MEMBERS!

958 Dahlia Ave, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, Ph #:909-859-9650

The Game Guy "Game Over Man"

Kriss Lewis, F2561835



Glad to be organizing and enjoying so far and there is more to come. So "Game Over Man."

From the Sheriff



Kathie Seguin, F455062

Hi Everyone - Summer is here and time to continue our road trips. With our motorhome back in or possession we hope to start road trios once again. So, remember your badges to help us to say hello to fel-

low members. wear that badge, smile, and say "Hello" when meeting our members. Just remember that Jodi, our Deputy Sheriff, is also on the prowl for badges at our events.

From The Deputy Sheriff



■ Jodi Lewis, F2561835

Looking forward to another fun filled rally soon. Thank you for wearing your badges and keeping your dogs on leashes. It is through the group effort of respecting these rules, that allows us to keep return-

ing to these fabulous places and enjoying community fun. Don't forget your badge.

2023 Wagon Master and Event Comments



Dede Hermon, F502949 Wagon Master

What a year we have had, for starters! After the storms in Newport Dunes and campers having difficulty returning

home, Pechanga was a relaxing escape. Golden Village Palms is always a fantastic event with the Vintage RV rally. It makes you wonder how they can even host so much FUN with all the entertainment and extras added in the VIP package (only \$66 this year, including the site fee!). We know that our summer kickoff at Bonelli Bluffs will be a spectacular weekend with our 2nd annual BBQ.

We have been averaging about 20 coaches for each rally, with GVP leading at 29 coaches throughout the weekend and several extra guests for the day. Sharing the rally weekend with Safari of Southern California and additional guests were so much fun. We even picked up a few new members.

When I wrote this, I was working on the rallies for fall and 2024. Fall registration forms should be on the website sometime in June. We'll let you know when you can begin to reserve your space. If you know you will be attending a rally and the registration is unavailable, drop me a message, and I can at least place your name on the list.

The Fall rallies will include Shadow Hills in Indio (September), Caliente Springs at Desert Hot Springs (October), and Springs at Borrego at Borrego Springs (November). I hope you will put all of these on your calendars. As always, please email me should you have an RV resort you would like to recommend.

My email is <u>dedeK6DDZ@gmail.com</u>, and I am happy to respond to requests for information (909 878-3456).

THE SPOT-LITE EDITOR'S CORNER

John Seguin, F455062



Spring is underway with Summer starting on June 21st and everyone is RVing and doing the camping scene. Our rallies have been eventful and enjoyable with many members attending and by the time you view this edition the Pechanga and Golden Village Palms RV rally will be in the history books and the Bonelli Bluffs RV Resort rally will be starting in a few weeks. Kathie and I should be getting on the road again with the return of our Class A. A big struggle with the part

supply chain and other unforeseeable problems.

So stay in touch through the communications methods below to see what comes next in the chapters rally calendar.

CCFMCA communication methods:

1. Emails - Instances will occur occasionally when there is a need to communicate with chapter members instead of waiting for the next Spot-Lite Edition.

2. CCFMCA Spot-Lite - The chapter's bi-monthly Spot-Lite newsletter highlights new and previous rallies, includes maintenance information, CCFMCA Food for Thought, FMCA National News, etc. Any President or Board of Directors updates, as well on website, and information on future rallies. Registrations forms and calendar are no longer being published in future newsletters. They are on the <u>CCFMCA</u> website.

3. CCFMCA Website - The third communication effort is through the chapter's website.

Of note, Brad & Marlene Brenner recently contacted me and asked that I mention "Mule Days" in Bishop CA. The Greatest Mule Show on Earth. Mule Days web site link is locate here https://muledays.org/. They will located in the Handicap Section Space #2 if anyone wishes to stop by say hello. There is RV parking and services, so check out the web site tab for Guests and RVERS.



The town of Bishop, nestled on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, comes alive with the annual presentation of Mule Days. The packers of the region wanted an event to start off the packing season and draw vacationers to the region. Local businesses wanted to see the area thrive with visitors to the Owens Valley. An idea was born, and so it began in 1970.



What began as a show and test of skills, with the "World's Longest Non-Motorized Parade" thrown in to boot, has grown into a funfilled, world-class event. There is no way to actually describe Mule Days. It is part mule show, part test of skills, and part Wild West show. It is an event the likes of which is held nowhere else in the world.

Over the six days of the event, there are 13 shows featuring more than 700 mules with their trainers, riders and packers. Fans come to the Tri-County Fairgrounds and the Mike Boothe Arena to watch the events and visit vendors, sponsors and mules. The 13 mule shows consist of western, youth, english, jumping, rodeo, racing, gymkhana, packing, chariot racing, driving, roping and dressage. For most competitions, veteran



announcers, Bob Tallman, Bob Feist and Steve Kenyon, take the microphone to both educate and entertain the crowds.



With numerous events happening this year, 2023 will be the time to return to family traditions, building memories and seeing old friends. Mule people have always been determined to prove that anything a good horse can do, a good mule can do better. From trail -riding to show classes, mules can do it all with the grace unique to these animals. Make reservations today and celebrate with us to watch the "Greatest Mule Show on Earth." Visit our website today: muledays.org for information or call our office for reservations: 760-872-4263.

Pechanga RV Resort Baseball









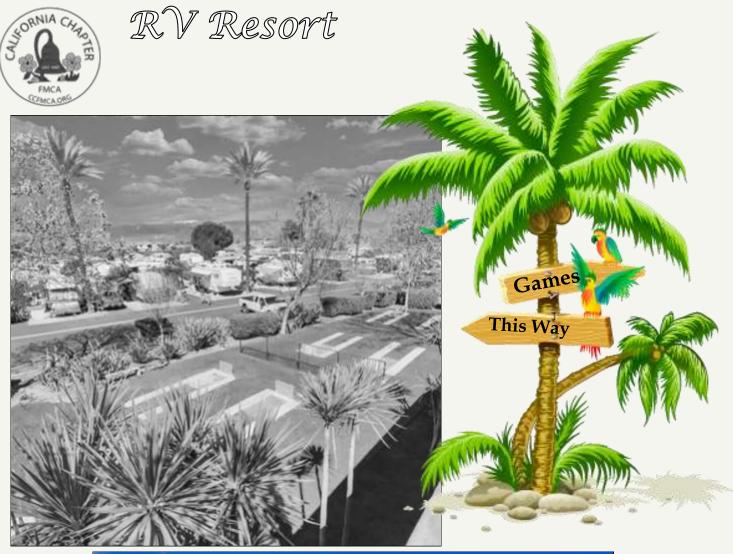








Golden Village Palms RV Resort





Golden Village Palms RV Resort











Golden Village Palms RV Resort

Friday Night Entertainment

Enjoying Saturday Dinner













Birthday Wishes to Kriss, Barbara, Mel

Drawing For Dinner Prizes



RV LIVING: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE AF- Knowing your Why - I can't stress how important this TER 8+ YEARS ON THE ROAD

MARCH 10, 2023 by Bryanna Royal of Crazy Family Adventure

RV living is an adventure in itself! As you can image going from living in a house with multiple bedrooms, a basement, probably more than one bathroom into living in a space that is a few hundred square feet has its challenges.

We have been living, working and traveling full time in an RV since May 2014 with 4 kids. Here is a ton of information on what we have learned about full time RV living and what we wish we knew before we started!

Plus a recap we did when we were 3 years in to RV living full time and what our take was on this lifestyle. Before we get into it we will answer a few high level questions:

Can you live full time in an RV? Absolutely! Plus you can do it long term too! We did it for 8 years with our 4 kids. The community of people living full time in an RV is growing like crazy. People are looking for the freedom and love the idea of traveling the country. Read on to see if full time camping life is for you!

What RV is best for full time living? - The answer really varies depending on how you want to travel in your RV. If you plan to stay put for long stretches go as big as you can. If you want to travel a lot and visit National and State Parks something smaller makes more sense.

We cover more of this in our post.

How much does it cost to live in an RV full time? -This will vary depending on how you want to travel. If your goal is to get out and see and do a lot it is going to cost more versus if your goal is to stay in one place and save money. For us we have spend between \$5,000 - \$10,000 a month.

We know others that do it for less than that. Below we break it down in more detail and reference a few blog posts we have on this exact topic.

Time to jump in! Here you go 6+ years of information we have gathered on full time RVing. Hopefully it will help you prepare for full time RV living!

Hitting the road

is. When we hit the road we quickly found out it is not all rainbows and sunshine and if we didn't know our reason for choosing this lifestyle, it makes the hard times even harder.

Our why was to spend more time together as a family with less distractions from things and activities.

Here is our story about how we became a Full Time RVing Family.

This isn't vacation - There is a difference between being on vacation and traveling full time. Your home is always with you, which means so are all the worries and chores that come with it... Plus when you go to a new location you don't have a vacation budget to blow on doing all the fun and cool things. You have to get creative and find as many free things to do as you can!

Don't get me wrong, we still have an amazing time and do get to see a lot of really cool places. But living on the road didn't just take away all the normal and hard things that go along with life!

If you are liking what you are reading so far be sure to check out my book: Full-Time RVing With Kids – An Insiders Guide To Life On The Road! I wrote the book to help others who want to get on the road with kids. Many reviewers have told me it is just like sitting around a campfire talking about our experience getting on the road and staying on the road.

How will you travel - There is such a variety of ways that families do full time RVing. You have your slow travelers who stay in one place for weeks or months, your boondockers who try to rarely ever pay for camping, your Thousand Trails group who only stays at Thousand Trails parks, the list goes on (more on all these different styles below).

I don't think you have to have this figured out right out of the gate. But having a general idea of how often you want to move and the type of campgrounds you want to stay at is helpful. Be flexible to allow this to evolve or change as you travel, don't feel stuck traveling ONE way only.

Be ready to plan - There is a whole lot of planning that goes into this style of living. It isn't like having a house that you know you can go back to every night. Instead you have to be sure you have a campsite booked or somewhere in mind to stay for the night – each and every night!



Be ready to plan (cont'd)

This takes work and planning. Yes, it gets easier as you have been doing it for a while, but it is always

Also know that there are campgrounds like in National Parks that book up 6-12 months in advance. Yes, you read that right. If you have a dream to stay in Yellowstone National Park (which we do highly recommend) then you are going to have to plan ahead and get your spot booked way in advance or take a chance on a first come first serve spot or a cancella-

Summer - In the Summer when kids are out of school there are a lot of people traveling which means places book up and they book up early (like again 6-12 months). So keep that in mind when looking at summer travel.

We have found that during the week can tend to be more open, but weekends are very difficult for getting last minute campgrounds. You can usually find one but they will probably be a lot more expensive or not exactly what you are looking for.

Winter - This came as a surprise to me (being from Wisconsin I just assumed most places down south were warm all winter! Not the case.) If you are looking for warm swimming weather with shorts and tank tops all year your options are pretty limited.

To get that type of weather, you usually have to be south of Orlando, in Arizona or Mexico... Not saying you can't stay further north, but just know that the weather is going to be cooler the further north you get.

This being the case, Florida and Arizona are PACKED in winter with RVers. Both families and retirees. This means that planning ahead is usually a necessity. If you want to get the exact places you are looking for.

If the Florida Keys are high on your list (which we also recommend) know that you will want to book those State Park campgrounds 11 months out. Yes, there are private RV parks you can book closer to the date, but they are 3 times the price. There are some Trail Collections (an add on to a Thousand Trails membership) parks down there so that may be another option, but just know some pre-planning will be involved.

Now all that being said, we aren't planners and rarely

ever have more than a few months ahead planned out. What we have done is figured out HOW we need to do this planning to make it work. And at times we have had to opt for not the exact site or campground that we wanted.

With a Thousand Trails membership we are able to book sites online up to 90 days out (memberships vary with this number) and then we can cancel them. So if we aren't 100% sure what we are doing we may book a set of dates and then go and change them or cancel them if we change our plans.

We also keep an eye on the booking system at places and sometimes check daily to see if anything opens up. This has worked to get us into National Parks last minute when people have canceled a reservation.

You have to be comfortable with uncertainty and also comfortable with the fact you may end up boondocking somewhere for a few days if nothing is available. It is up to you to decide how that feels to you.

Expectations

We highly recommend setting realistic expectations. If you think living in a small space with your family 24/7 isn't going to be hard at times, you aren't preparing yourself. This lifestyle has its challenges. If you accept that and anticipate it you will be more prepared when they happen.

Here is a post we wrote on the evolving emotions of full time RV travel.

Here is a great post about safe RVing.

RV Purchase

Buying an RV - This is such a fun part on this journey, but also stressful! This isn't just your place to go on the weekends, it is where you are going to be living. That adds a little more pressure to picking the right RV camper.

There is everything from camper vans to gigantic 5th wheels! It can be hard to pick.

Another option is to do an RV rental first. To help you decide what you like. We have a post here on tips for <u>renting an RV</u> and one here on tips for <u>plan-</u> ning an RV trip.

We put a lot of thought into our purchases (We have had 5 RV's since getting on the road in 2014) and for the most part were happy with what we chose each



RV Purchase (cont'd)

Really think through where everything is going to go that you want/need to bring with you. Do you have a lot of camping gear, Kayaks, Paddle-boards, indoor toys, kitchen products?

Where will everyone sleep – will that work? What about the dogs bed – is there a spot on the floor for it? Is there a place for all the clothes to go? Is there a desk area or place for the computer?

Thinking about the things that we knew we were going to want and need room for was helpful in narrowing down our decision.

The big question is always what size RV you should

We wrote a post to help you figure that out: Everything You Need To Know To Pick An Awesome Family RV.

We have also gotten our last 2 rigs from Camping World and we were really happy with the whole trade -in and purchase process!

Here is a list of the RV's we have had since hitting the road full time.

Our five RVs form 1st to 5th:

- Class A 39' Newmar Kountry Star 3910
- Class C 23' Winnebago View 23J
- Travel Trailer 21' Winnebago Micro Minnie
- Travel Trailer 30' Jayco JayFilght 26BHSW
- 5th Wheel Keystone Montana High Country

We chose to start BIG and got a 39 foot motorhome with 4 slides, then went small and are now back up to

Our post on downsizing: Why We Decided To Downsize Our RV

Here are some more great tips from Heath and Alyssa about what RV you should buy.

Financing

An RV loan can either be the same as a car loan or you can go the route of getting a longer term loan more like a mortgage in the 15-20 year range, but (and that is a big BUT) know that there are limitations with these loans.

For example to get a longer term loan your RV may need to be less than 8 years old. Or if you are going to get a longer term loan you may need to put down

20% vs the normal 10% or less.

There are a variety of factors that come into play and as we learned if you are a new entrepreneur and you don't own a house things may get even more interesting.

Our recommendation is to talk to a bank or loan company first and get an idea of what they do for RV's. In the end if you buy from a dealer it may make sense to go through their finance department, but it is always good to do your homework before that so you know what the normal going rate is.

Solar

If you can, add solar to your rig ASAP! It will give you the opportunity to go out and boondock (camp without hookups). We have been to so many amazing places boondocking.

We had our current solar setup installed by Future Solutions in Indiana and they did an amazing job!

With our Keystone Montana High Country 335BH it came pre-wired for solar which saved a lot of time and money on the whole process of getting solar installed.

We currently have:

- **Precision Circuits Battery Guard**
- Magnum MS2000 Inverter
- Victron MPPT Solar Controller
- Magnum Remote
- 2 x 300 watt panels
- 4 Battle Born C2 Lithium Batteries

We plan on expanding on this system since our usage demands more panels and batteries...full-time living!

Making It Your Own

Moving into an RV (which is now your tiny house on wheels) you still want to make it your own! We had so much fun doing this with every rig we have had. With our first rig we took out closets and sinks and added bunks and shelves. We also ripped out all of the old fashioned looking decor and made curtains to

Plus we painted the whole RV. Nothing really different here. Craig just primed the walls and we painted them with normal paint. Nothing special.

We were very happy with everything we did and really enjoyed living in it that way, but when it came time to sell we had to repaint everything back to a neutral color. I guess we didn't have to, but the majority of



Making It Your Own (cont'd)

but the majority of people shopping for an RV are going to be looking for a more factory style. Just something to keep in mind.

1st RV remodel: <u>RV Remodel: How to fit 6 people</u> and 2 large dogs in a Class A RV.

2nd RV – we did a few customization but not many as we ended up not keeping this one for long since it has some mechanical issues and ended up not being the right fit for us. It was a 23 foot class C and we didn't tow a car. But we found we like having a car and the ease of leaving our "home" at a campground when we went out exploring.

With our 3rd RV (21 foot travel trailer) and a much smaller one – we have found that there is more of a NEED to customize it so that we have the things in place that we need. Most RV's off the factory floor are made for weekend trips where you may have a bag or suitcase with you. When it is something you are going to be living in you are going to want to make updates to make it livable!

Some of the things we did to it:

- Changed our shower into a closet for clothes (We used campground showers).
- Added an Inverter and got a solar panel suitcase
- Put in a spice rack for our spices and oils (this was more helpful than I can say!).
- Found a better location for the TV.
- Setup storage areas and an art station for the kids.

4th RV: We made mostly cosmetic changes to make it what we wanted it to be. We did it all in 2 weeks for under \$2000.

5th RV: For this one we also did mostly cosmetic changes to make it more of a tiny home.

Naming it

Have some fun here and come up with a name for your house on wheels. We still haven't done this and just call ours The Rig, but I know other people have come up with some really cool and unique names! We would love to hear yours so shoot us a message!

Towing a car or buying a Vehicle to tow it

Pretty late in the game we learned that there are only certain vehicles that can be towed 4 down behind a motorhome. Wait you can't tow a minivan?! Holy Cow Pie! I think there are a few older models you

can, but it is a pretty small list.

If you are buying a truck to tow your 5th wheel or trailer just remember this is also the vehicle you will be driving around to attractions, the grocery store, parking structures, etc. Nothing like driving a dually in a busy city, but hey, sometimes that's just what you got to do.

Also be aware of weight and how much your trailer/5th wheel will weight with EVERYTHING in it. Here is a post we wrote for Winnebago that talks more about this: <u>Picking A Family Friendly Vehicle</u> To Tow A Travel Trailer

Living in an RV

Simplifying - Over the years we have learned that the less things we have the more space we have and that is a good thing. Plus almost everything we have gotten rid of we haven't wanted back and don't miss.

Same thing goes for outside toys – things like a big grill, a ton of lawn chairs, yard decorations, things like that. Believe me setting them up and taking them down starts to get really old really fast.

That being said we are really happy when it is cold and our friends have a clam tent and we do borrow my parents grill for grilling now and then:).

Here are a few tips on how we keep our life simplified: simplified. And check out these tips on tiny living!

Kitchen accessories - It is all about minimizing. Unfortunately, a lot of big kitchen appliances probably aren't going to work. Instead we focused on things we were going to use day in and day out. If we didn't use it in a month it was gone. Here are our recommended Kitchen Accessories.

Clothes - I can't believe how many clothes I use to have in our house. I had 2 closets full! Now I have one bin full and a few hangers and that is it.

It really is kind of crazy, but what I have learned is that I really only wear a small number of clothes. Granted if I had to go into work every day!

For the kids I have found that having a bin full of campground play clothes works great. I don't care if this stuff gets messy or ruined. Then I have a collection of 2 to 3 outfits that are nice clothes that they only wear when we are going out to eat, to a museum, exploring, etc.



Clothes (cont'd)

It truly is amazing how little clothes you really do need to have. I should add our kids and us will wear the same clothes for a couple days in a row. Why not?! Less laundry and way easier to maintain!

Space - There just isn't much...until you get outside! Then your space is HUGE!

But inside no matter how big your rig is, it isn't a house. The space is tight. Especially if you have a bigger family.

You will adapt, but be prepared for some growing pains. Plus if you go down to one bathroom it can be a challenge. But luckily most campgrounds have a bathroom you can use.

We have also found that when we need space, we just go outside or get in the car and go to a park, museum, etc. It is amazing how quickly you get use to the space and realize you really don't need that much.

Groceries - My husband always laughs at me, but going to a new grocery store every few weeks has its challenges! This means I can't always buy the same brand or don't know where the exact food I want is – since it is a new store with a new layout.

But all that aside, it really is like shopping for groceries when you live in a house minus having the basement or garage space to stock pile when there is a great sale. Other than that, it is all about getting use to the space you have and then learning how much you can and can't buy.

RV fridges are small, but one thing RV's do well is maximize the space. Same thing with an RV fridge. You can usually fit more than you think.

I know other people have gone the route of installing a residential fridge in their rig. So there are options.

Cooking - I can't tell you how many people have said to me "What do you eat?!" The funny thing is we pretty much eat the same things we ate when we lived in our house. We have a fridge, oven, and stove top, plus appliances like a toaster, donut maker, Instant Pot etc.

The difference is you probably won't have a huge kitchen to spread out in. I will say I also bake a lot less in the RV. Just not as much room for all that.

The fridge will probably be smaller (unless you have a residential fridge – which people do) and overall storage for food is usually less, so your shopping style may change – no more stock piling those canned goods!

Internet - If you need internet to run your business, DON'T rely on campground WIFI. SERIOUSLY. It rarely works and when it does you normally have to be at the club house or a designated area for it to really work.

Instead we recommend getting your own hotspot. If you always need a connection and don't want to stress about having to drive to a location (hello Starbucks), then you may want to get a Verizon and an AT&T plan. Plus a booster...

I will say we have made it work (running multiple online businesses) with just a Verizon hotspot, but there have been campgrounds and locations where it was a total nightmare and a booster or AT&T would have worked.

Here is a post from the amazing Technomadia team (not saying you need all of this – we don't have it all – but interesting to see what is possible!).

Our Mobile Internet Setup – 15 Years Of Staying Online

Pets - When we decided to RV full time, we knew we would be bringing our dogs with us. That was part of the reason we went with RVing since they could come with us. It has its challenges, but what you will find is most RV parks are filled with people with pets.

If you have what is termed an aggressive breed, you may run into more issues. With labs for the most part, we haven't had any problems. Just always be sure to double check if dogs are allowed.

Also note there are times when an RV park may charge an extra fee for having a pet. Also be sure whatever pet food you get for your dog can



Pets (cont'd)

be purchased anywhere or that you can get it shipped to you. We use Pedigree – not the best quality – but is available in Walmart's all over the US.

If your dog barks, you need to take care of that. You can't leave a barking dog back at a campsite when you are gone for the day. We used a citronella bark collar and it worked great.

We did leave our dogs in our RV and have a few things in place to help with that:

- 1. a wireless video camera so we can check in on them (if we have internet)
- 2. we always leave a window open and if it is hot, the a/c on
- 3. we have a note on our door with our phone number on it
- 4. if it is REALLY hot outside, we will check in at the front desk and let them know we have a pet with us and to call if the power goes out. Which is also why we leave a window open. We never leave without a window open.

You can check out our post about it here <u>RVing with</u> dogs.

We have had to put both of our dogs down while being on the road. They both were getting old when it happened and not doing well, so we had to make the hard decision to put them down. Both times we found a vet and made sure to find a place we could get them cremated so we didn't have to leave them behind. For us it was the best solution in the situation.

It was horrible and sad, but it was all possible. We had no idea if cremation would be an option. Had it not been where we were we would have gone somewhere where it was.

Cost of Full Time RVing

There are so many different ways to live this lifestyle. Some do it for saving money, other do it because they want to get out and travel and saving money isn't why they choose the RV life. For us it was

never about saving money.

We have heard you can do the full time RV lifestyle for \$2,000 - \$3,000 a month. We fall more into the \$7,000 - \$8,000 range but if we really try we could probably do about \$4,000 - \$5,000 a month.

Please note we move a lot. If we choose to stay put in places for longer things would cost less. Instead we normally move every 4 days or so. If your goal is to save money by living full time in an RV it can be possible. Below we hit the costs of full time RVing that we have seen.

Bills - I think we thought living in an RV was going to be a lot cheaper than living in a house... It can be. In our case we have an RV payment – on our first RV it was \$532 then for the next few it was around \$300. Plus if we stay at campgrounds that can be a \$600 – \$800 a month so right there we are getting close to what our mortgage was (minus property taxes).

If you don't have an RV payment and if you stay at only free membership campgrounds or free boondocking land and don't move very often (gas adds up) you can definitely do it for cheaper.

In our case we have found our bills are around \$1200 for RV, Car, Insurance, Cell Phones, Internet etc. Then everything else – campgrounds, groceries, spending money, etc. we end up between \$4500 an \$7000 a month.

What we have found is there is a BIG variation in the full time family RV community on how much money people spend. Like a REALLY big variation. There are some that do it for thousands a month and others that are over the \$7000 range. It all depends on what style of full time RV life you are looking for.

Here are detailed write-ups on how we afford full time travel. Plus a couple months of detailed budgeting for our family. Our goal when we started was \$4000 a month but we were closer to \$7000 – now as the kids have gotten older it is closer to \$8000 or sometimes more.

How We Afford Full Time Family Travel



Bills (cont'd)

Full Time Family Travel Budget For A Family Of 6 Plus 2 Dogs – September 2016

Full Time Family Travel Budget For A Family Of 6 Plus 2 Dogs – October 2016

Campgrounds - Campground prices range from \$0 a night to \$200 a night. It all depends what you are looking for. If you purchase a membership like Thousand Trails – you pay a flat one time fee to buy the membership.

In our case we bought a used one for \$3000 then we pay \$545 a year. We bought our used membership here: Campground Membership Outlet.

Once that yearly fee is paid we can stay for "free" at these campgrounds around the US. We have mixed feelings about them. Some are really nice, others are not so great. They are normally pretty far from attractions and a lot of the time our Verizon hotspot does not get coverage...

However they are great for meeting other full time traveling families!

We love staying at state and national parks which can range from \$25 - \$60 a night and normally don't have full hook ups, but instead just electric and maybe water.

Then there are private RV parks. There are times we really like these concrete centric RV parks with full hook ups and a nice clean setup – and cable – the kids love cable:).

Then there is BLM land and boondocking opportunities where you can stay for free but have no hook ups. You find most of the BLM land on the west coast – not as much on the east coast. Here is a post we did on how to camp for free or close to it in the US.

Here is a post we have on our top 15 favorite RV campsites in North America.

Memberships - There are a decent amount of <u>RV</u> memberships sites out there. We belong to:

Fulltime Families – all about families traveling

fulltime in their RV. Lots of great resources and rallies! Click here to join Fulltime Families!

Thousand Trails – as mentioned above. Great for inexpensive camping (once you buy the membership) and for meeting other full time traveling families.

Passport America – great discounts on campgrounds (usually for one to two nights, but sometimes more).

Good Sam – We don't really use this one, but when you RV full time you have Good Sam... you can be the judge of that one.

Harvest Host – Great opportunity for staying for free at wineries and breweries!

Boondockers Welcome – An awesome way to find unique stays on people's property around the US!

Reciprocal Museum Membership – a great one for deals on science museums, natural history museums, children's museums and more!

I know there are more out there but that is what we do for now.

Have an RVer in your life? Check out these Best Gifts for RV Owners – 43 Gifts They Will Love

Health Insurance - If you work for a company you probably have health insurance through them, so you are good to go. If you don't you may need to get insurance elsewhere. We have gone the route of the Marketplace/healthcare.gov - https://www.healthcare.gov and it has worked great for us.

We also purchased a Teledoc plan, which I would HIGHLY recommend.

Emergency room is covered all over the country. Outside of emergency room we are only covered in Wisconsin which means we would have to go back if something came up that meant we needed ongoing care. Or pay out of pocket. Not ideal, but is what it is. We have also heard of people doing short term insurance.

Here is a great post about Healthcare Options.



RV Insurance - We insure our RV through State Farm iPhones and iPads. If you are an Android user, an al- same place we have our cars. And then we also have a policy that covers our stuff for up to \$30K. Here is a post from Good Same about RV Insurance.

RV Traveling

How to find campgrounds - This all depends on what kind of campgrounds you are looking for. If you want free-sites check out our post on How To Camp For FREE in the US.

Recreation.gov is great for finding government campgrounds and Reserve America has a lot of state and national campgrounds. Good Sam also has a directory.

And if you want the full on video tour of a campground how cool is that?! CampgroudViews.com is great for that.

The last option is good old Google search for: Best campsites in Wisconsin...

Also note that there are a lot of campgrounds that are starting to charge what we call a "kid tax". Basically any people over 2, you are paying an extra fee per night. This can be \$2 to \$5 a person! That can make a big difference when you have kids.

Fulltime Families is working on a service where they reach out to campgrounds and ask that they waive the kids tax if you are a full time family member. It is coming soon so stay tuned!

Taking The Right Route - Let us know if you figure this out:). Seriously this isn't always an easy answer. If you have a big rig you want to be sure you are following the right route and not hitting any low bridges or going over any bridges you shouldn't be (yes we have been there). Then you want to have a truckers map book. Or a RV/Truckers GPS system.

Finding Diesel or gas stations - This isn't always easy, but normally if you go to a truck stop like a Flying J you are good. We have also heard that AllStays Camp and RV app is a good app for finding large gas stations if you have a big rig.

Note: The **Allstays** app is currently only available for

ternative to the mobile app is Allstays Pro, which has even more features.

RV Lifestyle

Socialization - There is a BIG full time traveling RV community, both people with and without kids. If you are looking to socialize go to a campground and walk around and talk to people. Seriously it is that easy. RVers and campers tend to be very social.

Then if you are looking for it you can continue conversations with people that may lead to you planning on traveling together for a while. This has happened multiple times to us.

Clubs - If you don't want to try so hard the other option is to join a club where you can connect with people online or through Facebook groups.

The one we recommend is Fulltime Families. It is a great resource for people traveling with kids. Their Facebook group has over 10,000 members and is a great way to drop a message asking if any other families are going to be at a campground or in an area you are heading to.

We also recommend checking out The Republic of Nomads and good things about Escapees RV Club and Escapers.

Rallies - Feeling lonely on the road? Head to a rally! You will instantly not feel lonely, but you may feel overwhelmed.

I have heard people say attending their first rally was like drinking from a fire hose. So many people and so much chaos, but so much fun!

We again recommend the Full Time Families Rally or an Escapers Rally. Plus Full Time Families will run some random get togethers throughout the year which would work too.

More Posts We Have On RV Living:

10 things we learned from 365 days of living and traveling in an RV



Rallies (cont'd)

RV Living With Kids – What We've Learned After 2

11 Things We Have Learned After 3 Years Of Full Time RV Living

RV Memberships

There are so many great memberships out there that have saved us hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year.

Museum - If you have kids and like science centers, children's museums, aquariums, and zoos you will want to get a reciprocal museum membership. This pass has saved us SO much money! You can learn all about it here: Reciprocal Museum Membership

Passport America - This is a great membership to have to get really good discounts on sites for a night or 2 – sometimes a week at locations that are usually in really good places. We don't use this every month but whenever we do we are glad we have it. Check that out here: Passport America.

Full Time Families - Like I mentioned above this is a great group to be part of. You can join their free Facebook group for free, but once you become a member, you get member benefits along with access to their members only Facebook group. This group is filled with mostly people who are on the road or have been – not dreamers – so you know you are going to get great feedback and information.

Thousand Trails - We have mixed feelings about the Thousand Trails parks. It seems like there is always something about them – either internet doesn't work there, they aren't full hookups or they are out in the middle of nowhere...but other then that they have an easy system to use for making online reservations and it is usually a good place to meet other kids/families.

If you are interested in a membership we recommend starting off with a zone membership and the buying a used membership if you like the zone membership.

National Park Pass - Another MUST have pass if you are hitting the road. The National Park Pass is \$80 for the year and gets you in to all the National Parks (done

per car – includes your towed car IF it is connected to your rig when you pull in). In total it gets you into 2,000 federal recreation sites including National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and more! Purchase yours here: https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/ passes.htm

Working From The Road

There are a lot of jobs and options out there that works remotely now.

Work Camping - If you are good with staying in one location at one campground work camping may be for you. It isn't for us. We tried it and only had to work a couple of hours a day for a free stay at a campground for a month.

The problem was we then had to go home and continue with our regular jobs. This made for a long day!

But for some people I know it is a great fit. Check out this site to learn more: Live Camp Work.

Amazon Workforce - We have never done this, but have heard from multiple people who have done and continue to go back each year to do it again. Basically you get a job working for Amazon during the busy holiday season. My understanding is it is a labor intensive job and you work a lot of hours.

May be a great way to get yourself on the road or to make some extra money to subsidize your income throughout the year.

Starting A Virtual Business - This is what we did. I started a virtual business where we do social media and Pinterest for small businesses.

I highly recommend this approach since it gives us a lot of flexibility. We can work from anywhere that has internet and any time of the day. This means we can go out exploring all day on a Wednesday and then come back and work at night when the kids are sleeping. Or get up early work for a few hours and then go exploring.

9 to 5 Remote Job - We also know a lot of people who have been able to either take their 9 to 5 desk job on the road with them or who have found remote 9 to 5



9 to 5 Remote Job (cont'd)

desk job on the road with them or who have found remote 9 to 5 businesses to work for. This is definitely an option and means you still have insurance and all the other benefits of a full time job.

As one family we know put it: They are basically on vacation every weekend. Meaning one person works 9 to 5 and the week is treated like a normal nontraveling week (except you live in an RV at a campground) then when the weekend comes they go out exploring as a family or move to a new location.

We had this setup and decided to leave it to pursue a Virtual Business. We didn't like that my husband had to sit at the table working all day 5 days a week while I took the kids out exploring. To each his own! Whatever you think is going to work better for your family.

Direct Sales - There are also quite a few families we know who have gone the route of starting a direct sales business to fund their travels. These usually take a while to build up, but if you are able to do it and enjoy the work it is definitely an option.

Travel Blogging - Yes, this is an option and one a lot of people think about until they realize how much work goes into it. Seriously it is a lot of work for little return in the beginning. But if this is a route you want to go it is totally possible.

Great Resource For Remote Work - For tips on how to find remote work check out: www.morethanawheelin.com

Hardest Thing About Full Time RVing

The hardest thing about full time RVing that has never changed after being on the road for 6 years is leaving friends and family behind. It hurts every time we have to say bye. You can read more about this here: The Hardest Thing About Life On The Road

What We Love About Full Time RVing

Freedom - This is definitely one of the biggest things. That we literally have to freedom to come and go as we please. If there is somewhere we want to go we

schedule it and we go.

Community - There is such a great community of people out there who are traveling full time and it is great to connect with so many like minded people!

Minimalism - It is such a great feeling to have less things. Having less things means there is less to worry about and less to take care of. It really is a liberating feeling!

Family - There is nothing like loading the family up in the RV and taking off on our own adventure. We all get to know each other so much better, spend 24/7 together and get to explore this amazing country as a family! Here is a detailed post we wrote about it: 7 Things We Love About Full Time RVing

What We Hate About Full Time RVing

Leaving Family And Friends - This is always hard and something we don't like about this lifestyle.

Not Having Your Own Yard/Room

This is a good thing – since you don't have to maintain them or clean them. But a bad thing since the kids can't really dig a hole in the campground "yard" but in our backyard we would have been OK with that...

You can read our whole post here: 7 Things We Hate About Full-Time Family Travel

Also know that we struggle big time with our decision. As our kids are getting older (now 13, 10, 10 and 8) and being on the road for over 6 years we start to question if our kids are missing out on "normal" life. Should they be in activities?

Should we be in one place so they can feel what that community is like?? Sometimes the answer feels so clear that what we are doing is right and other times we just aren't sure. In summary this lifestyle does not make parenting any easier. You still have the same questions and the challenges that come up with raising kids. So be prepared for that!

There you have it! The things we wished we would have known before we hit the road over 6 years ago!



Questions To Ask Yourself BEFORE Full Time RVing

I know it can look like all rainbow and sunshine on the good ole Social Media platforms. But I am here to tell you it is not! We have put together a list of 14 questions to ask yourself before making the decision to go full time with your family: 14 Questions to Ask Yourself Before Making the Decision To Travel Full Time With Your Family

RV Blogs

Technomadia.com

iRV2 forum

Campingworld.com

Full Time RVer Blogs

Heath & Alyssa

Follow Your Detour

Drivin' & Vibin'

Fulltime Families

Ditching Suburbia

The Wanderpreneurs

YouTube RVers

Our Channel:)!

Exploring The Local Life

Less Junk More Journey

Drivin' & Vibin'

Keep Your Day Dream

Project Trek

Podcasters

Our Podcast © - we come and go with it but will be adding more episodes soon!

The RV Entrepreneur

RV Miles

Check out this post by **Boondockers Welcome**: Top 5

Podcasters For RVers

Instagrams To Follow

Us – Crazy Family Adventure

Zula Life

The Mom Trotter

Lanes Less Traveled

Big Hearts Tiny Spaces

The Wanderpreneurs

Elementary Explorers

The Runaway Parents

Restless Russells

Facebook Groups To Join

Fulltime Families

Full Time RV Family

RVE Entrepreneur

RV Tips

Technomadia

RV Books To Buv

My book ⊚ <u>Full-Time RVing With Kids – An Insid-</u>

ers Guide To Life On The Road

Living In An RV by Alyssa Padgett

Follow Your Detour by Lindsay Mckenzie

CCFMCA Food for Thought

Camping Maple Sriracha Chicken Kabobs



Camping maple sriracha chicken kabobs so juicy and delicious. Grilling up meat that doesn't dry out on the grill, but stays moist and flavorful is a must

when we go camping.

Kabobs are simple to make and delicious to eat. Nothing could be better than skewered meat mixed with peppers, pineapple, and in a fantastic maple sriracha sauce.

How to cook kabobs?

You make to make sure that your kabobs are juicy and tender. Marinating is so important when making juicy tender kabobs. Start by sealing, and refrigerate 15 minutes to 24 hours.

Soak wooden skewers in cold water for at least 10 minutes, to keep them from catching fire. Then thread the meat and vegetables onto skewers, leaving a small space between each item.

Baste them each skewer with the marinade. Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill skewers for 10 minutes, turning as needed, or until meat is cooked through and vegetables are tender. Serve immediately and enjoy!

Camping Maple Sriracha Chicken Kabobs

Loving these Camping Maple Sriracha Chicken Kabobs cause they are sticky, sweet, spicy and full of flavor. Everyone loves these heavenly bites of deliciousness.

Prep Time 10 minutes Cook Time 15 minutes Total Time 25 minutes Servings 6

Ingredients

2 large chicken breasts cubed 1/4 cup soy sauce 1/4 cup maple syrup 1 tbps sriracha sauce 1 pineapple cubed 1 red bell pepper cubed

Instructions

- 1. Place cubed chicken breasts in a large resealable plastic bag.
- Whisk together soy sauce, maple syrup, and srira-
- 3. Pour over the top of the chicken and massage into the chicken.
- 4. Marinate for at least 15 minutes to 24 hours in the ice chest.
- 5. Once the chicken is done marinating, soak wooden skewers in water for 10 minutes.
- Then skewer the chicken pieces, red bell pepper and pineapple on to the skewer.
- Grill chicken until thoroughly cooked through. About 10 minutes.
- Serve and enjoy!

Author: Holli Butterfield

Classifieds



LIG Solutions: Did you know that as a member of **FMCA**, you have access to affordable health coverage options with our partner LIG

Solutions? To access this exclusive member program please visit https://www.fmca.com/fmca-healthcareplan to learn more

Here are the important dates to remember:

- Medicare Annual Enrollment: Starts on October 15th, 2022, and ends on December 7th, 2022
- Under 65 Open Enrollment: Starts on November 1st, 2022, and ends on December 15th, 2022
- Employer Coverage: Can be done at any time of the year depending on your current situation.



Keep on Rolling with the FMCA Tire Savings Program FMCA members receive discounts on Michelin, Continental, and Goodyear tires at participating dealers. Learn more about how FMCA's Tire Discount Program can

save you hundreds per tire!



DriveQuest: Don't let RV troubles keep you from staying on the road! Get protection with DriveQuest RV vehicle service coverage. DriveQuest offers a wide range of coverage choices so that you

can get back on the road. Repairs can be completed at any licensed repair facility. Learn more about this member benefit here.

T_E M E C U_L A Temecula Olive Oil Company:



been family-owned and operated, committed to using only the highest quality olives to make the best California olive oil products. On our Olive View California olive ranch, we practice regenerative agriculture, growing and harvesting a wide variety of olives, which we cold-press using traditional methods to produce fresh, full-flavored extra virgin olive oil. Taste the difference.



FMCA's RV Road Atlas is a must-have for your next RV trip!

Never get lost again (unless you want to) with

our 11th edition RV road atlas. Designed specifically with the RVer in mind! https://shopfmca.com/ shop/ols/products/11th-edition-fmca-road-atlastravel-guide



FMCA's Tech Connect+ is a Tech Connect benefit package designed to bring travel-friendly technology offers to FMCA

members. Keeping connectivity easy means you can spend more time doing what you love - RVing! In our Tech Connect+ benefit package, you will find discounts on cell boosters, Wi-Fi extenders, and satellite TV antennas. Plus, FMCA has teamed up with AT&T to bring members two outstanding data plans. These data plans include 4G LTE speeds as well as 300mb roaming coverage per month. Truly unlimited data plan!



<u>Allstays</u> If you've ever been RVing before, you've probably heard of Allstays. It's a free app that shows over 30,000 campsites across the United States. You can sort by

what amenities the campsites have, and how much they cost, as well as look at reviews from other campers who have stayed there. This app is truly a lifesaver and I highly recommend it.

Harvest Host - Campers Card A Camping Program Built By Campers For Campers! We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand new campground discount and perks program - CampersCard! As passionate advocates for the RV and camping lifestyle, we wanted to create a program that would make camping more affordable and enjoyable for our members. With CampersCard, you can save on camping fees at participating campgrounds across North America, giving you the freedom to explore and camp more often.

Maybe **Harvest Hosts** didn't work for you because you prefer hook-ups or you just prefer staying in designated campgrounds. CampersCard is the perfect balance between saving money and still getting to enjoy all the perks of staying at a quality campground.



CCFMCA Organization

FMCA Web Site: www.fmca.com FMCA Business: 808-543-3622

California Chapter FMCA Web Site: www.ccfmca.org Western Area FMCA Web Site: www.wafmca.com

CCFMCA Officers



<u>President</u>: Leonard Wahlquist - 951-218-5643



<u>Vice President / CCFMCA National Director</u>:
Sonny Gillespie - 951-492-0787



Secretary: Denise Loxton - 818-800-7717



<u>Treasurer, Webmaster && Data</u> <u>Coordinator</u> Tracy Lenocker - 909-337-0315



Wagonmaster: Dede Hermon *-* 909-878-3456



Immediate Past President: Carl Gardenia - 951-490-2270



<u>CCFMCA Alternate National</u> <u>Director</u>: Beth Smith - 951-217-0276

Appointed Officers



Membership/Hospitality Carol Jones - 909-859-9648



<u>Sheriff</u> Kathie Seguin - 619-938-0838



<u>Deputy Sheriff</u> Jodi Lewis - 909-586-4766



<u>Spot-Lite Editor</u> John Seguin - 619-938-0838



<u>Game Guy</u> Kriss Lewis - 909-586-4766



CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION (CCFMCA) INC. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant must be a member of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA), or must have applied for or be applying for membership in FMCA simultaneously with this application to be eligible for membership in CCFMCA. Please provide your FMCA number: F ___

Last Name*:	First Name	*:	and	11 12	
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e-Mail Address*:					
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Our fiscal year is January 1st t	hrough December 31st. Annu-	al dues are \$25.00 (due	January 1st	each year).	
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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION INC. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Membership Renewal is \$25.00 per coach. Please update your information in the New Membership area where Red Asterisks indicate.

Please make check payable to CCFMCA and return both the Membership Renewal and payment to:

Carol A. Jones (CCFMCA Membership) 958 Dahlia Ave Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RENEWAL FEE (Per Coach): \$25.00 TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

Revised 12-29-2022